



Regional Partnership for Transportation Planning

March 31, 2010

Bob Weiss
Fiscal Research Division
North Carolina General Assembly
Suite 619, Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

**RE: Request for Comments on Issues Related to the State's Method for
Distributing Transportation Funds**

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments concerning the formula currently used by the State of North Carolina for distribution of transportation funds. These comments were developed by the members of the French Broad River MPO TCC and TAC. The following comments are submitted on behalf of the French Broad River MPO:

Appalachian Development Highway System Funding should be excluded from the equity formula.

The French Broad River MPO passed a resolution (copy attached) in September, 2009 requesting that Appalachian Development Highway System funds be excluded from the equity formula. The ADHS program was designed to channel additional funding into the Appalachian Region, not to supplant existing funding. Taking these funds through the equity formula violates the intent of the program and decreases the availability of other funds to our region.

Population figures should consider all users of the system whenever possible, including tourists.

Western North Carolina is a popular tourist destination in the state, meaning that many of the users of our transportation facilities do not reside in this region, yet have a major impact on our transportation infrastructure. The equity formula should take into consideration the impact of these types of users.

Topography and environmental constraints have a major impact on transportation cost, which should be accounted for in the formula used to distribute funds. The topographic and environmental conditions of the mountains of Western North Carolina have a significant impact on the development of our region's transportation system. It is more costly to construct a mile of road in the mountains than in the Piedmont. This disparity in construction cost should be taken into consideration in any formula used to distribute funds throughout the state.

The number of intrastate miles left to complete in a region does not accurately capture actual need on the ground. The use of this criteria as a primary component of the equity formula means that actual need in a region is not accurately factored into the distribution of funds. In addition, proper maintenance of existing facilities is now a higher priority for many areas than expansion of intrastate routes to 4-lane roadways. The number of intrastate miles remaining to complete should either be removed from the funding formula or should be modified by adding a variable that more accurately captures real need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Davis", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jan Davis
Chairman, French Broad River MPO TAC